

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-25, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 33-49 remain in the application. Claims 1, 9, 13, 17, 28, 30, and 33 have been amended. Claims 5, 16, 26, 29, 32, and 50 are being cancelled herewith.

In second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 3, 4, 16, 17-19, 27 and 29 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Bhatt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,175) (hereinafter "Bhatt") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In the first paragraph on page 4 of the Office action, claims 2, 10, and 11 have been rejected as being obvious over by Bhatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,175) in view of Suzuki (JP 11346006) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In the penultimate paragraph on page 4 of the Office action, claim 12 has been rejected as being obvious over by Bhatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,175) in view of Abbott (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0137032 A1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

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In the second paragraph on page 5 of the Office action, claim 15 has been rejected as being obvious over by Bhatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,175) in view of Waitl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,491) (hereinafter "Waitl") under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In the penultimate paragraph on page 5 of the Office action, claims 30-31, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 48, 48, and 50 have been rejected as being obvious over by Bhatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,175) in view of Waitl (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,491) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In the last paragraph on page 6 of the Office action, claims 41, 42, and 48 have been rejected as being obvious over by Bhatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,175) in view of Waitl (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,491) and further in view of Matsumoto et al. (JP 02187058 A) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

It is appreciatively noted from page 7 of the Office action that claims 5-9, 13-14, 20-26, 28, 32-37, and 45-49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Since

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claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 15 are allowable as well.

Allowable claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 9 is now allowable as well.

Allowable claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 13 is now allowable as well. Since claim 13 is allowable, dependent claim 14 is allowable as well.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 26. Therefore, claim 17 is allowable as well. Since claim 17 is allowable, dependent claims 18-25 and 27 are allowable as well.

Allowable claim 28 has been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 17. Therefore, claim 28 is now allowable as well.

Claim 30 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 32. Therefore, claim 30 is allowable as well. Since claim 30 is allowable, dependent claims 31 and 33-49 are allowable as well.

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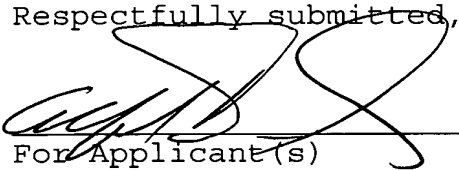
Since only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited herewith.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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